

Application No. 10/733,200  
Amendment Dated September 25, 2007  
Reply to Office Action Dated May 29, 2007

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 -2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A multiplex transmission apparatus ~~according to claim 2,~~  
connected to a plurality of first communication lines each transmitting a signal comprising of an  
overhead and a payload according to the standard of SONET (Synchronous Optical Network) or  
SDH (Synchronous Digital Hierarchy) and to at least one second communication line capable of  
transmitting a signal according to the same standard as said first communication lines at a speed  
higher than that of each of said first communication lines, the multiplex transmission apparatus  
comprising:

a plurality of first transceiver units each connected to one of said first communication  
lines for receiving a signal transferred on the first communication line and processing a first  
overhead extracted from the received signal;

a multiplexing and conversion unit for multiplexing at least payload portions of a  
plurality of signals received from said first transceiver units to generate a payload of a signal to  
be transmitted to said second communication line;

a second transceiver unit connected to said second communication line and said  
multiplexing and conversion unit for processing a second overhead to be transferred on the

second communication line and transmitting a signal having the second overhead and the payload generated by said multiplexing and conversion unit to said second communication line;  
and

a control unit for controlling the whole operation of the multiplex transmission apparatus,  
wherein said control unit instructs said second transceiver unit, when said first overhead received by one of said first transceiver units includes, at a predetermined location thereof, automatic protection switching (APS) bytes indicating that a failure occurs on one of said first communication lines, to add the alarm indication to said second overhead,

said second transceiver unit inserts a bit pattern into a predetermined location of said second overhead in response to the instruction from said control unit and transmits a signal having the second overhead with said bit pattern to said second communication line, at least three low order bits of the bit pattern having an all "1" value, and said predetermined location being within a line overhead in the case of SONET and within an M section in the case of SDH,

wherein said predetermined location of said second overhead where said ~~alarm indication~~ bit pattern is added inserted resides in an undefined area having no authorized definition with respect to information to be set therein according to said SONET and SDH standard.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The multiplex transmission apparatus according to claim 3, wherein each of said first communication lines and said second communication line further comprises comprising of a pair of a working line and a protection line, where and said APS bytes ~~alarm indication~~ give[[s]] a trigger for switching from the working line to the

protection line.

5 - 6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A multiplex transmission apparatus ~~according to claim 6,~~  
connected to at least one first communication line transmitting a signal comprising of an  
overhead and a payload according to SONET (Synchronous Optical Network) or SDH  
(Synchronous Digital Hierarchy) and to a plurality of second communication lines each  
transmitting a signal according to the same standard as said first communication line at a speed  
lower than that of the first communication line, the multiplex transmission. apparatus  
comprising:

a first transceiver unit connected to said first communication line for receiving a signal  
transferred on said first communication line and processing a first overhead extracted from the  
received signal;

a demultiplexing and conversion unit for demultiplexing at least payload portion of the  
signal received by said first transceiver unit to generate a plurality of payloads of signals to be  
transmitted to said second communication lines;

a plurality of second transceiver units each connected to said demultiplexing and  
conversion unit and to one of said second communication lines for processing a second overhead  
to be transferred on the second communication line and transmitting the second overhead and at  
least a part of said plurality of payloads generated by said demultiplexing and conversion unit

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to the second communication lines; and

a control unit for controlling the whole operation of the multiplex transmission apparatus,  
wherein said control unit instructs said, second transceiver units, when said first overhead  
received by said first transceiver unit includes a bit pattern at a predetermined location within a  
line overhead in the case of SONET and within an M section in the case of SDH, to add the bit  
pattern to each of said second overheads to be transmitted to said second transmission lines, at  
least three low order bits of said bit pattern having an all "1" value, and each of said second  
transceiver unit adds said bit pattern to a predetermined location of the second overhead in  
response to the instruction from said control unit and transmits a signal having the second  
overhead with said bit pattern to one of said second communication lines, and

wherein said predetermined location of said first overhead where said bit pattern alarm  
~~indication~~ is included resides in an undefined area having no authorized definition with respect to  
information to be set therein according to said SONET and SDH standards.

8. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The multiplex transmission apparatus according to  
claim 7, wherein each of said first communication line and said second communication lines  
further comprise comprising of a pair of a working line and a protection line, and said bit pattern  
~~alarm indication~~ gives a trigger for switching from the working line to the protection line.

9. (cancelled)